

Subject: Equipment for Medical Personnel of Armed Forces of the United States.

San Francisco, June 18, 1940.

To the Editor:—When we finally go to war with those who oppose our way of living, medical units may find themselves wholly unprepared for modern warfare. Members of the medical profession who are interested in preparedness might find it wise to study Allied attempts at first-aid in Flanders and France. The fact is there simply hasn't been any possible. Unless hospital units are armored and mechanized along with other combat units, they will not be able to exist in modern warfare. It is no longer appropriate to leave these matters to the philanthropy of well-intentioned spinsters who like to give ambulances to the Red Cross. Modern military first-aid and hospital units must be fully armored and mechanized. This can only be accomplished through adequate national appropriations in connection with the streamlining of our armed forces. It would be wise for the medical profession to make sure that such provision for the Army Medical Corps is made.

CHAUNCEY D. LEAKE.

Subject: Personnel of United States Marine Corps.
(COPY)

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
HEADQUARTERS RECRUITING DISTRICT OF DETROIT
Detroit, Michigan,
June 3, 1940.

Dear Doctor:

The United States Marine Corps has been authorized by the Congress to increase its personnel by nine thousand men.

It will be the policy of this Recruiting District to fill its quota as rapidly as possible.

The enclosed blanks state the physical qualifications required of applicants for enlistment.

A high mental and physical standard of recruits has always obtained in the Marine Corps in the past, and it is planned to maintain that high standard during the present campaign.

The writer feels that a physician is ideally qualified, as a judge of human nature, as an expert in physical examination, and as an outstanding citizen in his community to select the type of man best fitted for the Marine Corps.

This is a time when all Americans feel that it is wise and urgent to put their shoulders to the wheel and aid the move for preparedness.

The writer earnestly solicits your aid in completing the important task, common to us all, of filling our armed ranks to their authorized limits with the finest men in America.

250 New Federal Building.

Very truly yours,

JOSEPH E. MALCOMSON,
Lieutenant-Commander, Marine Corps,
United States Navy.

Subject: Intravenous Drip Method for Treatment of Syphilis.

(COPY)

THE AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION, INC.
New York, N. Y.

To the Editor:—The American Social Hygiene Association is interested in getting the following information to the medical profession and asks your coöperation in publishing this statement:

In order that there may be a central source of information with regard to studies of the intravenous drip method for treatment of syphilis ("the five-day treatment"), the American Social Hygiene Association at 50

West Fiftieth Street, New York, has been asked to gather and to keep available information regarding this subject. The Association requests all physicians and hospitals which are planning or are now carrying on studies of experiments with this method of treatment of syphilis to send brief information regarding the following points to the Association at the above address:

1. Name of hospital or other institution.
2. Name of principal physician in charge of the intravenous drip study.
3. Type of case or cases of syphilis treated by the intravenous drip method.
4. Name of drug or drugs used.
 - (a) By the intravenous drip method.
 - (b) By any other method before, during or after intravenous drip therapy. (Mention any specific therapy used.)
5. Routine laboratory work done on cases of syphilis treated by the intravenous drip method.
6. Usual number of hours of intravenous drip treatment per day per patient.
7. Usual number of days of intravenous drip treatment per patient.
8. Any other pertinent facts.

The Association will be glad, so far as possible, to answer inquiries regarding the intravenous drip treatment of syphilis. The Association has available to physicians, upon request, a brief pamphlet on the subject of the present status of the intravenous drip method of treatment of syphilis, written by Dr. Charles Walter Clarke, Executive Director of the Association and a member of the New York City Committee on the Intravenous Drip Treatment of Syphilis.

FIVE-DAY TREATMENT FOR SYPHILIS

The above headline, from page 1 of the New York Times of April 13, was typical of New York newspapers and other important journals throughout the country on that date. Almost without exception, front-page space, with striking headlines and several columns of text, was devoted to a report presented before a meeting of two hundred distinguished physicians on April 12 at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, when the preliminary results of a new treatment method for syphilis were discussed. This new method may well be the most important advance in syphilis therapy since Ehrlich discovered salvarsan in 1910.

Developed by Dr. H. T. Hyman, Dr. Louis Chargin, and Dr. William Leifer, all of New York City, the method consists essentially in introducing very slowly into a vein an arsenical compound in high dilution of saline and glucose. The solution flows at the rate of twenty or thirty drops per minute for ten or twelve hours a day for a period of five days. The quantity of the arsenical which can safely be given in five days by this method is equivalent to the amount given in a period of three or four months by present standard methods.

About three hundred patients have now received this treatment with results which so far appear to be excellent. Infectious lesions have healed quickly and blood tests have become negative in a high percentage of cases. It should be understood, however, that experience with the five-day method is limited as yet to a single class of cases—early syphilis in men. It is not known whether the method can be applied to latent or late syphilis, or to syphilis in women (whether or not pregnant) or to congenital syphilis in infants and children. Experiment with such types of cases of course will be necessary. A good deal of time must necessarily elapse before the new treatment can be evaluated and before it can be available generally, should it prove satisfactory. Meantime standard methods of treatment are reliable and available almost everywhere.

Dr. Walter Clarke, American Social Hygiene Association Executive Director, and a member of the committee which supervised the treatment project at Mount Sinai Hospital, has prepared a statement which appears in the May *Journal of Social Hygiene* and to which *Social Hygiene News* readers are referred for further particulars. Address The American Social Hygiene Association, Inc., 50 West Fiftieth Street, New York, N. Y.

Ask for Publication A-272, *The Five-Day Treatment for Syphilis—A brief popular exposition of the method and its present limitations*, 5 cents.

50 West Fiftieth Street.